

International Application Number: PCI/US98/23433

International Filing Date: 3 November 1998 (08.11.98)

Priority Date: 08/988,300 10 December 1997 (10.12.97) US

Applicant: CISCO TECHNOLOGY, INC. [US/US]; 170 West Tasman Drive, San Jose, CA 95134 (US).

Inventors: HUGHES, David, A.; 900 High School Way #2200, Mountain View, CA 94041 (US). CHOI, Isaac, P.; 205 Ellyridge Court, San Jose, CA 95123 (US). PADMANABHAN, Radhika; 4199 Monet Circle, San Jose, CA 95136 (US). FERNANDES, Neufin, L.; 7506 Shadowhill Lane, Cupertino, CA 95014 (US). BUCKLEY, William, P.; 6556 Jernie Court, San Jose, CA 95120 (US). LAWRENCE, Jeremy, R.; 319 N. Third Street #2, San Jose, CA 95112 (US).

Agents: VINCENT, Lester, J. et al; Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, 7th floor, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026 (US).

(51) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

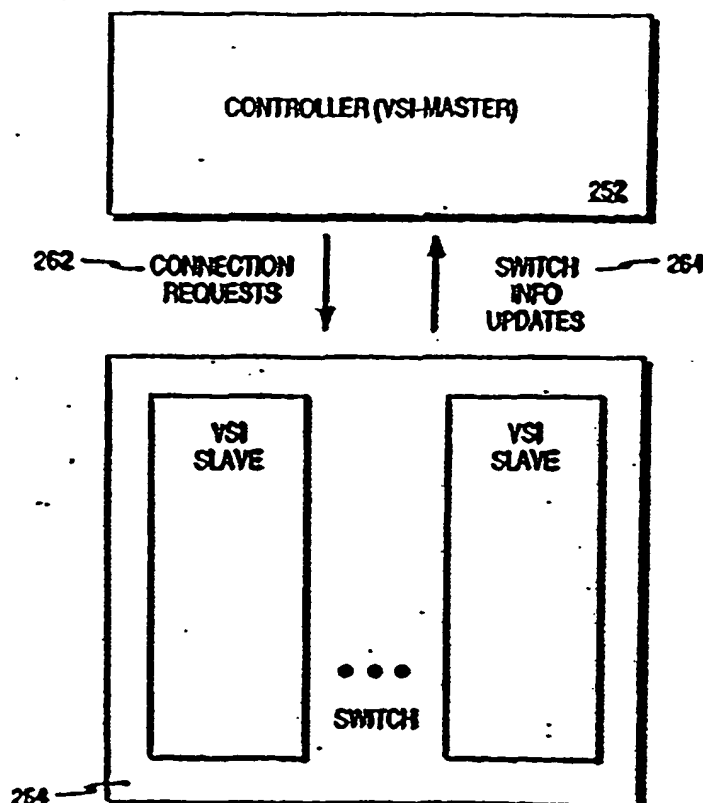
Published

With international search report.

Title: A CONNECTION CONTROL INTERFACE FOR MULTISERVICE SWITCHES

## Abstract

A connection control interface for use in a network is provided. The connection control interface allows the multiservice switch to provide a number of independent resource partitions to a number of independent controllers coupled to the switch. Switch resource partitions comprise a series of subsets of switch resources that form a number of independent subset networks of a physical network. The connection control interface allows the independent controllers to control the connections on a switch using the number of switch resource partitions. The independent controllers each use one of a number of control systems, the control systems comprising network software level. The independent controllers comprise a virtual switch architecture having a master component and a slave component where the master and slave components may be hosted on different processors. The slave components may be hosted on a control card that contains a number of port cards of the switch and a port card processor. The switch and the independent controllers are resynchronized when discrepancies are detected between the connections on the switch and expected by each of the plurality of independent controllers.



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

RF